

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

NOVEMBER 13, 2014

## Greenbelt's Giant Willow Oak Loses Battle to Many Diseases

*Justin Baker has furnished the following correspondence relating to the recent removal of a large willow oak tree in front of the Greenbelt Municipal Building.*

Mr. McLaughlin,

Thank you for forwarding the information, and thank you to the Public Works Department for balancing out the protection of our trees with the protection of the public. I am sad to see the large, beautiful oak go, but it sounds like everything was done to try to save it. Knowing the degree to which the Public Works Department worked to try to save the tree deepens my respect for their service. Thank you.

*Justin Baker*



**The giant willow oak that has graced the Municipal Building has succumbed.**

From: Michael McLaughlin  
Subject: FW: City Municipal Building Quercus phellos (willow oak)

Mr. Feris and Mr. Baker,

I was advised of your posting on Greenbelters about the removal of the large oak in front of the Municipal Building. Below and attached is information explaining why the action was taken. The tree has been in decline for a number of years and a couple months ago dropped a large limb, which fortunately landed on the building. The Public Works Department works very hard to care for our largest trees and only removes them as the last resort.

Thanks for your concern,

*Mike*

From: Brian Townsend  
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 11:15 AM  
To: Michael McLaughlin  
Subject: City Municipal Building Quercus phellos (willow oak)

Mike,

On June 4, 2014, at 5:00 pm. a large live limb partially broke and fell on the roof of the City Municipal Building from Quercus phellos (willow oak) out front. Because of its size and location a contractor was called with a crane to remove the limb off the roof. On June 5, 2014, I contracted Bartlett Tree Experts to do a third party tree report. (See attached CityOffice-WillowOak 07-21-14 ERp.t) Since June 4 three other large branches have fallen out of this tree.

This tree has lightning damage, extensive die back in branches, large amount of wood decay in main trunk and branches. It has

all the signs of Photophoria Canker, Hypoxylon Canker, and Ganoderma root rot, (defined below).

Thank you,

*Brian Townsend*

*Phytophthora Bleeding Canker* belongs to a group of primitive fungi known as the water molds. Chlorosis will usually accompany these symptoms along with branch dieback. A furrowed appearance on the trunk and fluid exudation from a darkened canker will usually be present. Bacterial cankers produce similar symptoms on the trunk, but also produce a fermented, fruity odor.

For the past four years we have contracted Bartlett to do an annual treatment of a bark application of fungicide combined surfactant to provide systemic disease suppression and attempt to prolong the tree life.

*Hypoxylon canker* is a fungal disease affecting mostly oak trees in both forest and landscape settings. This fungal disease has a look like someone painted black, brown, silver or gray blotches all over the tree bark. The fungus will spread throughout the tree, usually causing the tips of branches to turn yellow, wilt, and then die back. As the disease spreads the tree will slowly die over the course of 2 to 3 years. The bark of the infected tree will begin to

See **WILLOW OAK**, page 7

## Sage Policy Group Presents City With Economic Strategy Report

by James Giese

At a November 5 worksession, the Greenbelt City Council reviewed a second draft of a consultant's report for developing an economic strategy for the city. Prepared by Sage Policy Group, Inc., the report recommends the city offer tax breaks to encourage the upgrading of older housing and commercial developments within the city.

The future economic climate within the city will be quite different, depending on whether or not the proposed Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) headquarters is relocated to the Greenbelt Metro Station site. Anirban Basu, chairman and chief executive officer of Sage, discussed the draft with council.

Basu requested that council relay any comments it might have through City Planner Terri Hruby and that the final draft will then

be prepared for submittal hopefully before the end of the year.

### Recommendations

While not included in the draft report made available to the public, Basu submitted five recommendations for action to council in a slide presentation. They were:

1. Support owner-occupied housing development in Greenbelt East and West
2. Provide tax breaks for Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) properties for approved improvements
3. Provide tax breaks to catalyze regeneration of older commercial areas
4. Reconsider redevelopment plans at Beltway Plaza
5. Strive for change at Roosevelt Center.

Commenting further, Basu said that without improvement to

the existing housing, he could see pressure arising to tear down and replace it. GHI, he felt, was the most vulnerable owner-occupied housing within the city and more susceptible to degradation. A city tax break would not be on base taxes now being paid by a property, but on a reduction of increased taxes a property might pay when improvements were made.

Councilmember Judith Davis commented that GHI is now contemplating undertaking improvements and she felt the co-operative would want to jump at this opportunity. She expressed concern, however, on how the rest of the city may feel about such a proposal.

As to the other recommendations, Basu noted that, in the current housing market, rental

See **COUNCIL**, page 6

## American Education Week

In celebration of American education, these columns will be telling the stories of selected teachers from the schools that serve the Greenbelt community. This week readers will get a glimpse inside Greenbelt Elementary School. In coming weeks we will focus on all of our local public schools.

Organized by Lisa Zammuto, the stories feature two teachers or staff members at each school. David Lange, who originated the series, assisted.

## Schools Everywhere Mark American Education Week

by Mary Moien

Next week, November 17 through 21, is American Education Week. Schools in Greenbelt and throughout the country use this week to remind people of the importance of public education – “Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility.” Almost a century ago, the National Education Association and the American Legion sought an annual celebration to spotlight the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great. American Education Week was born, and is always celebrated the week

prior to Thanksgiving. Now, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), the National PTA and many other organizations also support this event.

Because the Greenbelt News Review recognizes the interest of the entire community in the success of its schools and students, the newspaper will highlight interviews with teachers from the six schools in the city – Greenbelt and Springhill Lake Elementary Schools, Robert Goddard French Immersion School, Greenbelt Middle School, Eleanor Roosevelt High School and Turning Point Academy, a public charter school,

See **SCHOOLS**, page 7

## Pommerehn's Positivity Earns Her Recognition

by Brittany Britto

Ayla Pommerehn, a recent graduate from Florida Southern College, packed up her whole room in her Jeep and made her way from Lakeland, Fla., to Maryland to begin teaching at Greenbelt Elementary School earlier this year.



**Ayla Pommerehn**

It would be her first time officially teaching, but just months later, the Greenbelt Elementary School's principal, Monica Gaines, would be praising Pommerehn for her excellent work.

“We are really impressed because we had a last minute vacancy,” said Gaines, who hired Pommerehn just a week before school started. “But I was committed to getting the best teacher for the school.”

Gaines interviewed several candidates but didn't

have the gut feeling about any of them – until she got her hands on Pommerehn's resume, Gaines said.

See **POMMEREHN**, page 12

## What Goes On

**Monday, November 17**

**8 p.m.,** Council Worksession, Forest Preserve Maintenance and Management Guidelines, Municipal Building

**Tuesday, November 18**

**7 p.m.,** Advisory Committee on Trees, Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent Road

**Wednesday, November 19**

**7:30 p.m.,** Advisory Planning Board, Community Center, Room 200

**7:30 p.m.,** Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Community Center

**Thursday, November 20**

**7 p.m.,** Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Community Center



# Letters to the Editor

## Thank You

I write to thank the residents of the City of Greenbelt and the 4th County Council District for their support in the November 4 General Election to allow me to represent them on the Prince George’s County Council.

I truly appreciate having received almost 80 percent of the approximately 29,000 votes cast in the General Election last Tuesday. I thank the residents of the 4th District for their confidence in me to be the county council member for the next four years.

I look forward to working with the county executive, my new county council colleagues, our state delegations and the City of Greenbelt to move forward the interests and concerns of the county and the 4th District.

I hope you all enjoy the upcoming holiday season.

*Todd M. Turner*  
Councilmember-elect

## Pantry Thanks

A note of thanks from the Pantry of Greenbelt. You are all special. Your unfailing generosity merits our special thanks.

Thanks to General Manager Bob Davis of the Greenbelt Co-op, provider of the green bin receptacle for you, the shoppers of the Co-op. Thanks to Sharon Koehler, Marge Markowich and Jordan Choper. Thanks also to Mishkan Torah, the entire Greenbriar community, the Boy Scouts Troop 746 and Cub Scouts Pack 202, Suzanne Lomax, Rita Radich, Alice Kovalchik, Curves of Greenbelt, Warren Wilcox, Councilmember Judith Davis, Barbara Osborne and the St. Hugh’s Knights of Columbus.

Special thanks to the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority of Prince George’s County, Alumnae Chapter for generously purchasing \$500 of groceries.

You are the light of hope for so many – you are the heart of the Pantry.

Happy Thanksgiving,  
*Solange Hess, Chair*  
*The Pantry*

## For the Record

I’ve been teaching tai chi at the Greenbelt Youth Center for seven years, not 15, as noted in the News Review October 9 issue on page 12 by Brittany Britto. Tom Bartlett was my instructor (not trainer); tai chi ch’uan – the full title – is not just an aerobic class, as it is portrayed in the article. It is a martial art with aerobic, meditative and martial aspects such as pushing hands and weapons. It is concerned with the taoist philosophy of Asian countries and has a much deeper context than regular aerobics classes.

*Linda L. Uphoff*

## Hear Her Side

A special meeting for GHI members is scheduled for next

week, Tuesday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post #136 on Greenbelt Road.

The GHI board of directors has voted to terminate my mutual ownership contract. I want to present my position to all GHI members and let them decide if I should have to leave GHI.

Please come to the meeting. I will tell you what is my fault and what I am not responsible for and let you decide.

Thank you.

*Linda Davis*

## A Bad Line to Give For an Off Liner

I got a call on Monday from “John from your computer company . . . hackers are trying to get in your computer.”

I was in the basement and had forgotten to put new batteries in that phone’s caller-id unit, so when the phone rang I did not know who was calling. I wasn’t going to answer but I was expecting a call, so I did. It was John.

He told me he has tried to reach me two times today. He was so convincing about hackers and had such urgency in his voice that I got all shook up inside.

But, somehow I remembered I don’t have internet – only an electric cord, no cable.

As I was telling John I don’t have internet, he interrupted and said, “they’re in right now; they’re in.” I told him I use my computer only to type and don’t have internet . . . how can they get in if I don’t have internet? John hung up.

When I went upstairs and checked caller id, it showed 1-000-000-0000. He “spoofed” that number (but that is another scam for another day).

As I backtracked caller id, it showed two “unavailable” calls earlier, with no phone numbers showing up, so I guess he was truthful about trying to reach me.

I doubt there were any hackers, even if I had internet. John was probably going to fix the hacker problem (that did not ex-

ist) and ask for my credit card number as an easy way for me to pay him.

*Sue Krofchik*

## Groundswell Power

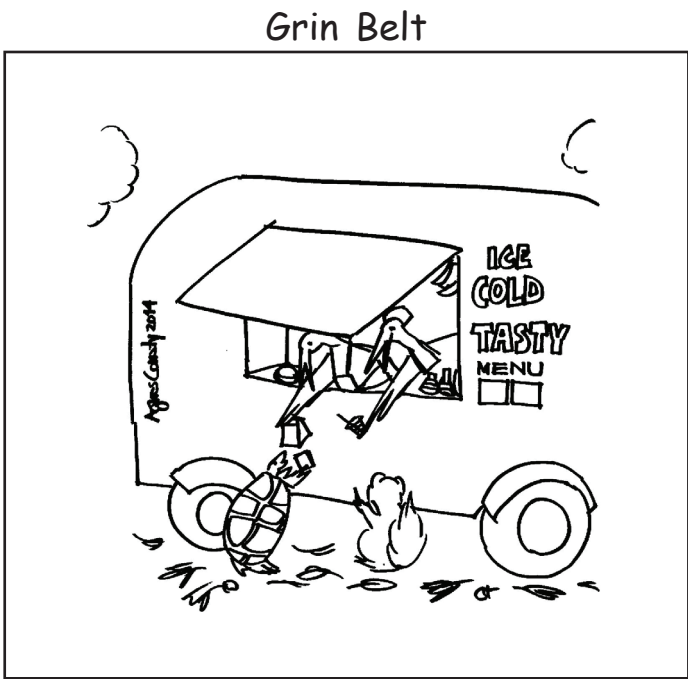
We want to be sure that the community knows about the great opportunity to replace fossil fuel based electric power with 100 percent wind power. This opportunity is available until November 21. The non-profit Groundswell <http://act.groundswell.org/greenbelt> has been working with the Greenbelt Wind Group (a coalition of green groups in Greenbelt) and other regional groups to negotiate a low group rate for wind power. As a result of over 1,800 people expressing interest, Groundswell has been able to negotiate a special group rate with Washington Gas and Electric Service. If you pay your own electric bills, you can support 100 percent wind power each time you use electricity at the most affordable price available. Signing up for wind energy is a simple and concrete step that we can all take to reduce the use of fossil fuels that contribute to climate change.

You can sign up for wind power at <http://act.groundswell.org/greenbelt>. As a bonus, the Greenbelt Wind Group will receive a ten dollar donation from Groundswell for every person from our community that signs up with the Greenbelt link. This money will go to support projects in Greenbelt which help to make Greenbelt Green and Great.

If you would like more information contact Groundswell, 202-753-9672 or [energy@groundswell.org](mailto:energy@groundswell.org). We would also be happy to talk to you about our very positive experience with this program. Contact us, Jane or John, at [gccjane@aol.com](mailto:gccjane@aol.com) or 301-507-6765.

Please help your friends and neighbors be “green” by sharing this information!

*Jane Young*  
*and John Lippert*



"With this stack of holiday coupons, I'm getting a free lunch and you can have a dessert."

## Greenbelt News Review is looking for TYPISTS

Do you have 2 hours to give on some Tuesday evenings from 8-10 p.m.?

Be part of a congenial company of people who enjoy doing vital work getting your local paper to everyone's home each week.

For more information contact Angie 301-345-7874 or [p4angy@juno.com](mailto:p4angy@juno.com)



## Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 240-988-3351

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas X. White, president; Cathie Meetre, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Sylvia Lewis, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg and Tom Jones.

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

## NOTICE TO GHI MEMBERS

### PRELIMINARY AGENDA

### GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

Thursday, November 20, 2014

GHI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 7:30 PM



### GHI Key Agenda Items:

- Re-evaluation of Yard Line Between 3H and 5A Crescent Road
- Yard Line Certification: 7A-F Ridge Road
- Recommendation from ARC Re: Rules Changes for Control of Invasive Plants
- Task Force Recommendation for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- Proposed Installation of an Electric Charging Station in City Right-of-Way
- 2015 GHI Operating Budget, 2nd Reading
- Review 3rd Quarter Financial Statements
- Proposed Revisions to Investment Committee Charter
- Board Meeting Dates for January to May 2015
- Request for Staff to Investigate Restoration of Working Capital for New Members
- Contract for Surveying and Platting of Proposed City Abandonments

Regular Board meetings are open to Members  
For more information, visit our website - [www.ghi.coop](http://www.ghi.coop)



To request a sign language interpreter for this meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, or go to the GHI Office (One Hamilton Place) or contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

## Correction

The notice in last week’s News Review for November 14 Red Cross blood drive at the Community Center misstated the time. The correct time is 12:30 to 6 p.m.



# Community Events

## Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition “Food and Friendship” program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.

All meals include bread and margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for November 17 through 21 are as follows:

Monday: Grape juice, cheese stuffed shells with meat sauce, kale, scalloped potatoes.

Tuesday: Hamburger with lettuce, tomato and mustard, baked beans, coleslaw, wheat hamburger bun. Peach crisp to round off the meal.

Wednesday: Baked potato with diced turkey, shredded cheese and sour cream, mixed green salad with 1000 Island dressing, followed by fresh fruit

Thursday: Cream of tomato soup, turkey salad sandwich, mixed green salad with French dressing. Fresh fruit to follow.

Friday: Potato crusted fish with mashed spiced yams and herbed green beans topped with tartar sauce. Tropical fruit for dessert.

## Still Creek Watershed Cleanup Saturday

Join the Friends of Still Creek for the Still Creek Watershed Cleanup on Saturday, November 15, from 9 a.m. to noon. Help make a clean difference in our neighborhoods and watersheds. Meet at the Sweetgum Picnic Area in Greenbelt Park.

For details, call 301-344-3944, check the park’s website at nps.gov/gree or call the Friends of Still Creek at 301-345-6515. Bring boots, gloves and water.

## Draft Report is Topic At GCDC Meeting

The annual members meeting of the Greenbelt Community Development Corporation (GCDC) will take place on Saturday, November 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. The main focus for discussion will be the draft report on economic development recently prepared for the city, especially the portion relating to Roosevelt Center. All members of the public are invited to the meeting. GCDC members may renew their memberships at the door and new folks may become members as well. Contact Barbara Simon at simongava@yahoo.com with questions.

## Red Cross Holds Blood Drive Here

There will be a Red Cross blood donation drive on November 14, 2014, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. Blood donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. Bring a donor card, driver’s license or two other forms of identification. Appointments are encouraged but not required. For more information on donating or to make an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org.

## Investment Club Seeks Members

The Goddard Investment Club, a group of amateur investors who discuss and invest in stocks, is seeking new members. The club meets the second Monday of the month from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. The next meeting will be held Monday, December 8. For more information email jdea@hotmail.com.

## NASA Annual Fall Musical is Fanny

NASA Music and Drama Club’s (MAD) annual fall musical is “Fanny” with book by S. N. Behrman and Joshua Logan and music and lyrics by Harold Rome. It’s playing this year at the Charis Center for the Arts, 13010 8th Street, Bowie.

Find out what happens at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays through November 22. For ticket sales and more information contact 240-475-8800 or go to madtheater.org.

## Cajun Jam at New Deal Café

On Wednesday, November 26, for dancers, musicians and listeners who enjoy Cajun music, a Cajun Jam will be held at the New Deal Café. Beginners are welcome. Eat and socialize from 6 to 7 p.m. Jam from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Free.

## Kids Open Mic At New Deal

There will be a Kids Open Microphone at the New Deal Café this Sunday, November 16 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The Open Mic takes place on the third Sunday of every month. Children age 17 and under are invited to play a musical instrument, sing, dance, juggle, recite a poem or otherwise perform.

For more information, contact Anne Gardner at 301-220-1721 or annegrn@yahoo.com.

## At the Library

Tuesday, November 18: Toddler Storytime, 2 p.m., for ages 2 to 3, limit 20 people. Books at Bedtime 7 p.m. for ages 0 to 3, limit 20 people. Families are encouraged to start their bedtime routines at the library. Sing-a-longs, stories and quiet play activities will be presented to encourage engagement between caregivers and children. Stop by the information desk to pick up free tickets.

Thursday, November 20: Preschool Storytime, 10:30 a.m., for ages 3 to 5, limit 20 people; Baby Laptime Storytime, 11:15 a.m., for ages birth to 12 months, limit 20 people; Baby Storytime, 12:15 p.m., for ages 12 to 24 months, limit 20 people. Encourage reading as a positive experience by bringing children to the library’s storytime. Stop by the information desk to pick up free tickets.

### Read to Rover

Saturday, November 15, 2 p.m. Read to Rover is for children age 6 to 11 and helps them build reading confidence while reading aloud to specially trained therapy dogs glad to listen. Each child will read for 15 minutes. Registration is required.

### African History Series

Tuesday, November 18, 7 p.m. Ancient Nubia: Black Lords of the Nile will be the final session of the fall season in this audio-visual lecture series presented by C.R. Gibbs, historian of the African diaspora. The series will return on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 for the winter season.

### Adult Book Discussion

Tuesday, November 18, 7 p.m. Join the library’s Adult Book Discussion on this 2013 National Book Award Winner for Fiction, The Good Lord Bird by James McBride. The novel takes a pivotal, troubled sequence in American history – John Brown’s abolitionist campaign – and retells it in a voice as comic and original as Mark Twain.

Anyone who has read this book and wants to discuss it, is welcome to participate. Copies of the book may be available at the branch’s information desk.

## Reel and Meal Film Is Dying Green

On Monday, November 17, at the New Deal Café, the Reel and Meal film series will present the film Dying Green. This beautiful and upbeat film, directed and produced by local filmmaker Ellen Tripler, won Best Student Documentary and Best Educational Content (a Merit Award) at 2011 Montana CINE International Film Festival.

Discussion leaders will be Elizabeth Knox, Shelley Morhaim and Deirdre Smith. Knox, of Takoma Park, is the founder of the organization Crossings: Caring for our Own (www.crossings.net), which is focused on the healing power of caring for our own departed.

Morhaim is well known in many circles as a musician, filmmaker and community activist. She serves on the Maryland State Arts Council and the Democratic Party State Central Committee for the 11th District and has been involved in the creation of the future Resh Mill Preserve green burial ground in Baltimore County.

Smith, of Baltimore County, has spent a lifetime working on land preservation projects and other issues in the region.

The free film screening starts at 7 p.m., preceded by an optional vegan buffet (there is a charge) at 6:30 p.m. Reel and Meal is a monthly film series focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues sponsored by Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group, Green Vegan Networking and the Prince George’s County Peace and Justice Coalition. For further information on this month’s events, contact Susan Barnett, susnbarn@earthlink.net or 443-388-2961.

More Community Events  
can be found  
throughout the paper.

## Medicare Part D Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for Medicare Part D began in October and runs through December 7. During this time Greenbelt residents enrolled in Medicare Part D should review in detail their prescription drug plan to make sure that formulary, premium and deductible changes have not made their current plan selection financially infeasible.

Two options are available to Medicare Part D recipients: First, internet savvy residents can visit the Medicare website at www.medicare.gov and click on Choose a Prescription Plan. Here they can compare numerous plans, input specific prescriptions, choose a pharmacy and calculate annual prescription plan costs and medication expenses.

Or, Greenbelt recipients can schedule an appointment with the Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program to review their options. Contact Christal Batey at 301-345-6660 ext. 2012. All changes to Medicare Part D plans will go in effect on January 1, 2015.

ACADEMY  
STADIUM  
THEATERS  
6198 GREENBELT ROAD  
CENTER COURT OF BELTWAY PLAZA  
301-220-1155  
For directions visit  
www.academy8theaters.com

Most features are \$5.00  
all day on Tuesdays; add \$2.00 for 3-D  
R = ID Required  
(!) = No passes, (!!) = No passes weekend  
\* Not part of the morning and Tuesday  
discount shows

## WEEK OF NOV 14

### FRIDAY – SATURDAY

Interstellar, PG 13 (!!)  
11:30, 1, 3, 4:30, 6:55, 8  
John Wick, PG13  
11:20, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 9:35  
Big Hero 6, PG (!)  
11:00, 11:45, 1:35, 2:20, 4:10(3D), 4:55,  
6:45, 7:30, 9:20(3D)  
Beyond the Lights, PG13 (!) \*  
11:15, 11:55, 1:50, 2:30, 4:25, 5:05, 7,  
7:35, 9:30, 10:05  
Dumb and Dumber, PG13 (!) \*  
11:25, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 10  
Ouija, R  
10

### SUNDAY – WEDNESDAY

Interstellar, PG 13 (!!)  
11, 11:55, 2:30, 3:30, 6:15, 7:10  
John Wick, PG13  
11:20, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10  
Big Hero 6, PG (!)  
11:00, 11:45, 1:35, 2:20, 4:10(3D), 4:55,  
6:45, 7:10  
Beyond the Lights, PG13 (!) \*  
11:15, 11:55, 1:50, 2:30, 4:25, 5:05, 7,  
7:35, 9:30, 10:05  
Dumb and Dumber, PG13 (!) \*  
11:25, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 10  
Ouija, R  
7:30

### THURSDAY

Interstellar, PG 13 (!!)  
11, 11:55, 2:30, 3:30, 6:15, 7:10  
John Wick, PG13  
11:20, 1:45, 4:20  
Big Hero 6, PG (!)  
11, 11:45, 1:35, 2:20, 4:10(3D), 4:55,  
7:10  
Beyond the Lights, PG13 (!) \*  
11:15, 11:55, 1:50, 2:30, 4:25, 5:05, 7  
Dumb and Dumber, PG13 (!) \*  
11:25, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20  
Ouija, R  
7:30  
Mockingjay, PG13 (preshow)  
8

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND AUCTION

Greenbelt Community Church  
Sat., November 15, 2014

Handmade items, foods, seasonal decorations, gifts.

Raffle Baskets

Exotic SERRV items from U.S. and abroad

Fabulous Bake Sale

LUNCH

LIVE AUCTION BIDDING STARTS AT 1 P.M.

Hillside and Crescent Roads

In Greenbelt, MD

## Greenbelt Arts Center

**\*\* DON'T MISS! \*\***



Death by Design

A Comedy with Murder

by Rob Urbinati  
directed by Ann Lowe-Barrett

November 14, 15, 21, 22 at 8:00  
November 16, and 23 at 2:00

Ticket prices: \$20 General Admission,  
\$16 Students/Seniors/Military, \$14 Youth (12 and under with adult)

### COMING SOON

The Heroes Tale - Nov. 29 - Guest Production from BrownWork Entertainment  
Which Me Do You Want To See? - Nov. 30  
A (Comic) Christmas Carol - Dec 5-7 - Guest production by The Renaissance Man  
The Chromatics - Dec 13 & 14 - Holiday Concert

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or  
email: [info@greenbeltartscenter.org](mailto:info@greenbeltartscenter.org) or  
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at [www.greenbeltartscenter.org](http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org)  
123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP





# Obituaries

## Mary Lindstrom

Mary Linstrom, formerly of Ridge Road, died Sunday, November 9. A Funeral Mass will be held for Mrs. Linstrom at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church on Monday, November 17 at 10 a.m. Relatives and friends may call at the Borgwardt Funeral Home, 4400 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville on Sunday, November 16 from 2 to 5 p.m.

## Pauline V. Ellers

Greenbelter Pauline V. Ellers, 96, died on Saturday, November 8, 2014. Mrs. Ellers was the wife of the late George Ellers. She is survived by her son Kenneth Holmes, brother Paul Shepherd and several nieces and nephews. Inurnment will be held at the Gerald B.H. Solomon National Cemetery in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., at a later date.

## Douglas Sturm

Douglas Clark Sturm, 55, died peacefully on November 8, 2014 in his Greenbelt home where he lived for 15 years.



Born June 18, 1959, in Fort Monmouth, N.J., Douglas was the son of Carol Ann (Wack) Miller of Dunkirk, Md., and Carroll Clark Sturm of Waynesboro, Pa.

Many Greenbelters are used to seeing Douglas – at the library, the Co-op, Community Center, Beijing Restaurant or Generous Joe’s. He was the one with the friendly smile, the warm greeting, the one who would not forget you and would want to see you again and again. He loved Greenbelt mightily. It was his anchor and he took advantage of all the possibilities that he could. His friend Jim coached Greenbelt youth teams and Douglas enjoyed being at practices and games, especially when there were snacks to be shared.

Born with many challenges, Douglas never felt less than others, thanks to the encouragement and support of his family. He attended private and public schools in Virginia, Illinois and Maryland and the Melwood Training Center, earning certificates for successfully completing independent living and work training courses of instruction.

A long-time employee of The ARC of Prince George’s County, he was assigned to work at many different sites in the Washington suburbs. One time he came home and said he was dusting spaceships. As always he was correct, even though it seemed unlikely. The spaceships were in the

Smithsonian Annex in Suitland and he and his crew were actually assigned to dust and clean the spaceship exhibition.

In addition to his work and “assistant coaching” Douglas was devoted to the Woodchoppers Bowling League; the games were a highlight of his week. Naturally, given his various interests and activities, he made many friends. He never put conditions on friendship, and people were always at the heart of his existence. As long as he had his “people” around him – and the circle kept expanding – he was doing just fine. When Daisey, a big friendly, loyal canine companion moved in, things were pretty much perfect.

A Circle of Friends – a group of folks who knew and cared about him and whose main purpose was to support Douglas in living as independently as possible – met with Douglas regularly for many years. When Douglas wanted his own apartment, the Circle helped him to move into a University Square apartment from a group home. Later, when Douglas began to need more assistance, the Circle helped him to find housemates and personal care assistants. He was delighted about having his own home. It was the Circle’s goal to support Douglas’ wish to stay in his apartment. Whenever there was a Circle meeting, Douglas was in his element – all his good friends gathering around him and focusing on helping him – now that was the best.

Friends in his Circle agree it

was a privilege to know Douglas and to be a member of the Circle. During those years, Douglas was friend, mentor and teacher to Circle members. From Douglas one could learn how to meet great adversities with grace, dignity and humor. Circle members saw his compassion for others even when he needed assistance or was in pain. They observed his playfulness and joy in tasks and activities. Douglas showed others how to be a friend.

Douglas was a good friend to many and will be greatly missed by those who had the privilege of being his friend or part of his Circle.

He is survived by his stepmother, Louanna Dennis Sturm also of Waynesboro. He is predeceased by his stepfather, Larry Miller. He is also survived by a sister, Susan Sturm Pinales, and her husband, Ramon; a niece, Natalie Nicole Pinales Hernandez, and her husband Daniel; three nephews, Max Antonio, Samuel Clark and Zachary Dakota Pinales; a grand-niece, Evangeline Nicole Hernandez; and a grand-nephew, Nicholas James Hernandez.

Private burial services will be held in Rouzerville, Pa., with family and caregivers attending.

A memorial service to celebrate Douglas’ life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Linda Crnic Institute for Downs Syndrome; University of Colorado; Mail Stop 8608; 12700 East 19th Avenue; Room P-15-4014, Aurora, CO 80045.



Condolences to the family and friends of Mary Linstrom, who died Sunday, November 9, 2014.

Condolences to the family and friends of original Lakewood resident Lillian O’Brien, 80, who died at her home on November 7, 2014. Sympathy especially to her husband Patrick and the children.

Our sympathy to the family of Pauline Ellers, who died November 8, 2014, at the age of 96.

Sympathies also to the friends, family and faithful support group for Douglas Sturm, 55, a 15-year resident and well-known figure in Greenbelt who died on November 8, 2014.

We were sorry to hear of the death of longtime Greenbelter and Golden Age Club member Jack Owens, 93, who died November 2, 2014, after a fall. Sympathy to his wife Irene, who currently resides in assisted living in Beltsville, and to his son and daughter and their families.

Sympathy also to the family and friends of Dr. William C. Weintraub, who died in Annapolis on November 5, 2014, at the age of 88. Dr. Weintraub practiced in Greenbelt for many years.

### Congratulations:

To former News Review stalwart Paula Clinedinst, the recipi-

ent of a national award from the Department of Justice recognizing her excellence in legal support in critical environmental cases. Attorney General Eric Holder presented the award to Paula in a ceremony held recently at Constitution Hall, as her mother Lynn Clinedinst and other family and friends looked on. Paula grew up in Greenbelt and attended local schools before starting in the Justice Department over 25 years ago as an intern. She now works out of the Denver office, in the Division of Environment and Natural Resources. Way to go, Paula!

– Kathleen McFarland

## Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday  
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!  
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111

## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

Worship Service 10 a.m.  
Friendship Dinner following Service



## ST. HUGH OF GRENoble CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-474-4322



### Mass Schedule:

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

## GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH



Come worship God with us!

Sunday School 9:45AM

Worship Service 11:00AM

101 Greenhill Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
(301) 474-4212 www.greenbeltbaptist.org

## Greenbelt Community Church

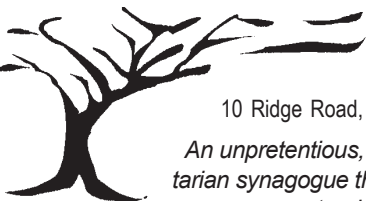
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)  
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings  
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Sunday Worship  
10:15 a.m.

Glennye Grindstaff, Pastor



## Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM. Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults. Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children. Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program. Opportunity for leadership development. Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors. Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities. Interfaith families are welcome.

Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

## BERWYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Rev. Mary Pullen - Pastor  
301-474-7573  
6301 Greenbelt Road  
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740



Worship Sun 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (Child Care Available)  
Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A hospitable, multicultural community of faith

## Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



November 16, 10 a.m.

Flying by the Seat of My Pants!

Rev. Richard Speck, guest preacher;  
with Jonathan Mawdsley, Worship Associate.

Life is like being a pilot.

There are skills that you learn that help you navigate your journey. We will explore some of the similarities and what I have learned about living and flying. Fasten your seatbelts and get ready to soar!



Catholic  
Community  
of Greenbelt  
MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.  
Municipal Building

ALL ARE WELCOME.



A Review

Death by Laughter Enlivens Arts Center

by Jim Link

Rob Urbinati’s Death By Design, at the Greenbelt Arts Center this month, is a brilliant amalgam of Noel Coward and Agatha Christie - wickedly witty dialogue wedded to a locked room murder mystery. The hilarious homicidal high jinks unfold over a weekend in 1932 at the English country house of Edward and Sorel Bennett, to which they have retreated after Edward’s latest play, with Sorel as his leading lady, flopped miserably.

As they lick their wounds and inflict new ones on each other, an assorted crew of uninvited guests show up, one of whom obligingly becomes a corpse, allowing another to use her considerable powers of ratiocination to solve the whodunit. You should be sufficiently dazzled and satisfied. I certainly was.

Edward and Sorel eviscerate each other like George and Martha in Albee’s Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? – but less viciously, more ditzily and way more aphoristically.

Examples: Edward, doing a crossword puzzle, asks Sorel “What is an eight-letter word for murder?” Sorel: “Marriage.” Edward, sporting a black eye, is asked if he beats his wife: “Only if she strikes me first.”

They are soon joined by Walter Pearce, a hypocritical, elitist, conservative politician intent on bedding Sorel; Eric, a fiery doctrinaire socialist who has escaped from a lunatic asylum; Victoria Van Roth, a narcissistic bohemian dancer, sculptress and artiste; and Alice, a nearsighted ingénue caught with a smoking gun in her hand.

Toss in Bridgit, the feisty Irish maid who plays the relentless detective, and Jack the chauffeur, a committed ladies’ man, and you have a broad cross section of society riddled with economic, political and social tensions.

Director Ann Lowe-Barrett has gathered together several cast members who excelled in her previous directorial efforts, See How They Run and Habeas Corpus. Like those two plays, DBD depends on split second timing for its comic effects and its screwball physical energy. This seasoned cast has great chemistry and succeeds convincingly.

Jill Vanderweit (Sorel) is tall, blonde, graceful, vain, needy, shallow, hilariously vacuous: “We mustn’t let it (the murder) ruin our weekend.” She is a delight to watch.

Colin Davies (hubby Edward) is worldly, cynical, elegant, sophisticated and gets to deliver choice bon mots and zingers throughout.

Alie Kamara (Eric) is menacing, muscular, sincere, revolutionary, appalled by aristocratic entitlement.

James McDaniel, V, (Walter) is simultaneously lecherous and prudish, crisply effective as the conservative foil to Eric’s Marxist threat.

Jenn Robinson (Victoria) is hyperbolically wonderful as the

supple, scarf-wielding Isadora Duncanesque dancer, shattered when her abstract painting is accidentally shot. “It deserved to be slain,” quips Edward.

Sara K. Scott (Alice) is demure, pretty, lovelorn, hides a secret.

Shelley Rochester (Bridgit) and Winard Britt (Jack) are wonderful as the help who puncture the pretensions of their employers as they loyally serve them.

Kudos to Rachel Marie Wallace and Penny Martin for the set design and sound design, respectively. Wallace gives the illusion of an upstairs area and a garden outside. Her use of three doors allows for frequent, rapid entrances and exits to keep the

action constant. Martin weaves 30s music – a tango in particular – and gunshots deftly into the action.

Choreographers Kristen Briscoe and Kyle McGruther did a heck of a job having the characters fight, faint, spill drinks, dance, shoot and kiss with precision.

Go see this devilishly entertaining show now at the Greenbelt Arts Center because, as Edward says, “A life without theater is not worth living.” Even if you sympathize with Jack – “I feel the same way about sausages.” – go see it on Fridays and Saturdays, November 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 8 p.m. and Sundays, November 16 and 23 at 2 p.m.



PHOTO BY HELEN SYDAVAR

Kristopher Weene, left, and Jason Monk from Greenbelt Troop 746 place a wreath at the War Memorial during the Veterans Day service. Behind them is trumpeter Steven Matera playing Taps.



# City Information

### MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF November 17-21

Monday, November 17 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Forest Preserve Maintenance and Management Guidelines** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road.

Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES** at Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent Road.

Wednesday, November 19 at 7:30pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Wednesday, November 19 at 7:30pm, **GREENBELT ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Room 200. On the Agenda: Briefing-Economic Development Study-Sage Policy Group and Update on Various Planning Projects.

Thursday, November 20 at 7:00pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD** at Community Center.

*All meetings listed are open to the public. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.*

Greenbelt Recreation Department 25 Crescent Road Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-397-2200

**GET ACTIVE GREENBELT!**

## 2014 GOBBLE WOBBLE

**Date: Thursday, November 27**

**Time: 9:00AM**

*Race-day registration begins at 8am.*

**Location: Greenbelt Youth Center**

**Entry Fees**

- Pre-registration
  - Individual - \$15
  - Family 4-pack - \$50
- Day of Race
  - Individual - \$20
  - Family 4-pack - \$70

**\*Race Packet Pick-Up\***  
Wednesday, November 26  
9:00am - 5:00pm (Youth Center)

Spend Thanksgiving morning with the Greenbelt Recreation Department as we host the ninth annual Gobble Wobble. The Gobble Wobble is roughly a 5K race (2 laps) and a 1.5 mile fun run/walk (1 lap) around Buddy Attick Park lake path. Join your family, friends, and neighbors in this great opportunity to Get Active before your Thanksgiving feast.

**Sponsored by:**



**For more information contact:**  
Sports & Recreation Coordinator  
240-542-2194  
aphelan@greenbeltmd.gov

**PRE-REGISTRATION AT THE YOUTH CENTER BUSINESS OFFICE IS RECOMMENDED.**

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY AND SIGN.**

**INSURANCE:** I hereby inform the City of Greenbelt and the Greenbelt Recreation Department that I will assume any and all medical insurance coverage for the above named participant(s), and that said coverage shall be adequate to cover any and all possible accidents or injuries to the above named participant(s) received during any phase of this program.

**RELEASE:** I hereby release and agree to hold harmless the City of Greenbelt and the Greenbelt Recreation Department, its employees, volunteers, coaches and other participants from any act of commission or omission which may result in any personal injury or property damage arising out of the above named participant's participation in this program. I further agree to save harmless the City of Greenbelt and the Greenbelt Recreation Department, its employees, volunteers, coaches and other participants from all losses, costs and expenses (including attorney's fees and court costs), settlement payment (whether or not reduced final judgment) and all liabilities, damages and fines paid, incurred, or suffered by the City of Greenbelt and the Greenbelt Recreation Department by reason of, or arising out of injuries to persons (including death) or property damage caused by or attributed to the above named participant's participation in this program.

**ACTIVITY #482602-1**  
Mail form and entry fee to:  
Greenbelt Recreation Department  
25 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

**\*Make checks payable to: "City of Greenbelt."**

**\*Forms may also be submitted at the Greenbelt Youth Center Business Office.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle One: Runner Walker  
Signature of parent or guardian if under 18 years of age \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR REGISTERING ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS.

### SAVE THE DATE!

Festival of Lights Juried Art and Craft Fair  
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt Arts Center café and artists studio open house  
- all fair hours

**Saturday, December 6, 10am-5pm**

**Sunday, December 7, 10am-4pm, plus:**  
Greenbelt Farmers Market, 10am-2pm  
Free all-ages monoprint workshop, 1-3pm  
GATE animation open house, 1pm-4pm  
Greenbelt Museum historic house tours,  
1pm-5pm (\$3)

### Greenbelt Community Center Recreation Assistants needed.

Customer service & event set up. Weekday & evening shifts. \$8.40/hr. PT EOE  
Apply on line at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs)

### VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability and Youth Advisory Committee  
**For information call 301-474-8000.**

### CARES Youth Mentoring Program

Free Tutoring and Mentoring for youth ages 12-17 who are Greenbelt residents or who attend Greenbelt Middle School, Robert Goddard French Immersion or Eleanor Roosevelt High School.  
**“Where learning and caring match up and grow”**

**Would you like to make a difference in the life of a young person?**

We are seeking volunteer mentors to work with youth to improve their academic abilities and to inspire them to succeed in life.

For more information contact Glenda Bullock-Willis  
301-345-6660.

### LEAF VACUUM SCHEDULE - NOVEMBER 2014

The City Public Works Department will again collect loose leaves from the following areas with the leaf vacuum from November 3, 2014 until January 16, 2015. We remind residents to rake the leaves to the curb, but not into the street, and to remove all sticks and stones from the pile as these can damage the machinery. Areas to be collected will be posted as in past years. We also remind residents not to park in front of leaf piles. **Info: 301-474-8004**

**WEEK OF:**  
**November 17-21:** Woodland Hills, Greenbrook Village Estates, Windsor Green  
**November 24-28:** Lakewood (Nov. 27-28 Holiday)

GIVE BLOOD  
GIVE LIFE



COUNCIL continued from page 1

housing is in much demand, causing developers to respond by building more of that type of housing. But Basu noted that Greenbelt has a very substantial part of its housing stock already in rental housing and did not support more being built.

The Old Mall

The Beltway Plaza owners have prepared a schematic for converting the old mall into a town center format, extending Springhill Lane south through the existing mall building, of which a portion would be torn down to connect to Greenbelt Road opposite Cunningham Drive, re-vamping the commercial space to a town center format with storefronts facing roadways, and adding on the north side of the center substantial multiple-family housing and office space.

Owner representative Marc Kapistan recently told council the current economic climate would not support such a project, but that relocating the FBI headquarters to Greenbelt would be a “game changer.”

As to Roosevelt Center, there have been many expressions of dissatisfaction by city officials and store tenants over the reluctance of the owner of the two original main buildings in the Center to make improvements or repairs. Basu noted this was an important aspect of the historic planned community, and that the appearance and economic health of the commercial center has significant impact on the viability of the remainder of the community.

With no recommendation as

to what might be done other than offering tax breaks where feasible, the consultant recommended that the city continue to strive to achieve improvements. Basu predicted future vacancies if nothing is done. “It won’t be the front door you will want to see” for the historic planned community, he warned.

Not Recommended

What Sage is not recommending is that the city establish an economic development department such as the City of Bowie has done. Basu noted that Bowie is twice as large as Greenbelt and still growing. He felt Greenbelt could accomplish economic development in other ways.

Basu noted as well a significant change recently in the area’s economic climate. Once a prime growth area, Maryland now ranks 45th, Basu said. The recently imposed federal government sequestration has mostly hurt federal contractors. Virginia suburbs now have the highest office vacancy rates in 25 years. Basu doubts that sequestration will last only for a short time.

The goals Sage is recommending are independent of whether or not the FBI relocates its headquarters to Greenbelt, Basu told council. They focus upon the older areas of the community. He urged council to interact more with the business owners. He felt this could be done without creating another department.

Mayor Emmett Jordan asked, “How do we deal with the perception that the city is anti-business?” Basu suggested the city make

processes easy to get things done. He felt there is a general public sector attitude hostile to business, while in most businesses employees will ask “What can we do for you?” Basu again urged council to support the plan to add owner-occupied housing at Beltway Plaza where there is now a 25 percent commercial vacancy rate.

Kapistan, who attended the meeting, noted that the owners previously had built new facilities to attract tenants. That didn’t work, he said, so they now build to suit. He felt it was very important to let the business market decide.

The way to attract more business to the city is for the city to first “make love” to the businesses it has. He urged councilmembers to come to visit at Beltway Plaza. He also urged the city to attend a trade show for shopping centers in February, to be held at National Harbor, and visit the mall’s booth. Bowie, he said, will have a booth next door.

Census Data

For its report, Sage pulled and analyzed a variety of census data. Basu noted that much of its data was more up to date now because the Census Bureau does sampling between the decennial censuses. See data in table above.

In 2011, more than half of working Greenbelters were employed in educational services, health care/social assistance, public administration or professional services. Persons working in Greenbelt were primarily working in professional, scientific and technical services, retail trade, accom-

Here is some of the data comparing the years 2000 and 2012.

	Maryland	PG County	Greenbelt
Population increase:	9.85%;	7.98%	7.72%
Increase in total households:	10.89%	8.41%	2.80%
High school graduates:	88.5%	85.6%	89.7%
College graduates:	36.3%	33.1%	28.2%
Median household income:	+38.1%	+33;1%	+28.2%
Family poverty rates, percent of population (2000 to 2014):	6.1 to 6.5%	5.3 to 5.8%	6.0 to 7.4%
Total employment:	+4.5%	+3.5%	-19.0%

Median age of Greenbelt population: 2000, 31.9; 2012, 34.0.  
The age group 20 to 44 declined in population, while the younger and older ages increased.  
Median home value for 2012: Greenbelt \$225,200; Hyattsville, \$285,500; College Park, \$304,900; Bowie, \$325,600.

modation and food services, health care and educational services.

In 2011, there were 11,759 persons working in Greenbelt who lived outside the city, 9,356 who lived in the city but worked outside of it and 405 who both lived and worked in the city.

Based on 2012 census data by census tracts, of the three sectors of the city, Greenbelt Center had the largest population at 9,917, Greenbelt East was next at 8,821 and Greenbelt West was smallest at 6,828. The average family size was largest in Greenbelt West at 3.4, about the same in Greenbelt East, 3.3, and smallest in Greenbelt Center at 2.8.

Greenbelt East’s population is over 60 percent black, Greenbelt West’s is majority black and Greenbelt Center is slightly majority white. Asians are most populous in Greenbelt East, comprising more than 5 percent of the population there.

Good to Know! Theater Updates

Anyone interested in receiving updates by email or text on the renovation of the Greenbelt theater may do so. Go to the home page for the City of Greenbelt at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov), click on “Notify Me” at the top of the menu on the left side and follow the directions.

Free Smoke Detectors

The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad will provide and install new smoke detectors at no cost for anyone who needs them. Old smoke detectors are unlikely to be reliable even if the batteries are regularly replaced.

For more information or to have a smoke detector inspected for safety, call the department at its non-emergency number: 301-345-7000.

Snoring is the primary symptom of sleep apnea.

We can help you both get a better night’s sleep.

Sleep apnea is a life-threatening condition that causes people to stop breathing while they sleep. This condition can lead to **high blood pressure, heart disease, weight gain, elevated glucose levels, depression, irritability and memory problems.** Recognize the symptoms:

- + Snoring

+ Excessive fatigue
- + Regular insomnia

+ Drowsy driving
- + Difficulty concentrating

+ Restless sleep

Doctors Community Hospital’s Sleep Center is the only program in Prince George’s County accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

We offer board-certified sleep medicine specialists, a full range of sleep studies and CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) equipment assessments. Also, appointments are conveniently available seven nights a week in our beautiful suites, complete with flat screen televisions and full private bathrooms.



Sleep Center

8100 Good Luck Road  
North Building, 6th Floor  
Lanham, Maryland 20706

DCHsleep.org

To request a free sleep apnea quiz or learn about sleep studies, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968).



# Pumpkin Walk Is Both A Scary and Fun Success

by Karen Tang

Tatiana Isabella has been coming to the annual Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival Walk ever since she was born. She lived in Greenbelt for five years until her family moved, but the 10-year-old Arlington, Va., girl has shown true dedication by continuing to attend the event. “My favorite part is the pumpkins,” said Tatiana.

On Saturday, October 25, the half-mile walk in the North Woods Tract of the Forest Preserve was lined by hundreds of jack o’ lanterns that were carved by citizens within the community.

The walk celebrated the community’s original fight to protect the Great Northern Woods from development. In 2003, the City of Greenbelt decided to forever protect the forest, now known as the Greenbelt Forest Preserve.

“The Pumpkin Walk reminds us that we have these beautiful woods and we have to take care of them,” said Lore Rosenthal.

The walk started in 1988 and has become a tradition. This marks its 26th year.

The community had a pumpkin “carve-off” the day before, on Friday, October 24 at Roosevelt Center. People carved pumpkins that would be placed on the trail the next day.

City Councilmember Rodney Roberts has been a part of the tradition from its beginning. He

served hot apple cider and hot chocolate to the children and people of the community before they entered the walk.

“You get to meet all these people and see everyone having a good time,” said Roberts.

There is folklore around the walk. The Goatman, who is half man and half goat, is a legend about an experiment that went terribly wrong at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. The lore suggests that jack o’ lanterns calm the Goatman.

Children and families came dressed up with flashlights to see all the pumpkins and get a glimpse of the Goatman.

“I think this walk is my favorite Greenbelt tradition . . . just because it’s a great thing to get people out into the woods,” said Melissa Ehrenreich, chief organizer for the event. About 40 organizations sponsored the event and donated carved pumpkins for the walk.

To make the walk a zero-waste event, the Greenbelt Compost Co-op composted the pumpkins for residents, the community gardens and the Three Sisters demonstration gardens. Members of the co-op hope to build community support for composting.

*Karen Tang is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism writing for the News Review.*

# SCHOOLS continued from page 1

as well as Magnolia Elementary School, which serves a number of Greenbelt students. This newspaper is also dedicated to providing information throughout the year on local schools, teachers, students and activities to ensure that the community is involved in local education.

## Blue Ribbon Schools

For several years, Greenbelt has been the home of two USDOE Blue Ribbon Schools – Greenbelt Elementary School and Eleanor Roosevelt High School. However, Robert Goddard French Immersion School has just been awarded the title of Blue Ribbon School, so now there are three. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the USDOE seeks out and celebrates great American schools, schools demonstrating that all students can achieve high levels.

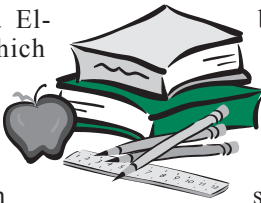
## Greenbelt Elementary

Greenbelt Elementary has a special activity planned for each day this week. Monday is Hats off to Education – wear your favorite hat; Tuesday is College Day – wear your college gear; Wednesday is American Education Day – wear red, white and

blue; Thursday is Class Color Day; and Friday is School Color Day – wear green and white. During the whole week, the school is holding an essay contest. Each student will write about a future career, including describing the job and what steps the student must take to get there. There will be one winner from each grade level.

The existence of Greenbelt’s Advisory Committee on Education is a testament to the importance of education to the city. The committee has stated that “Greenbelt is a community committed to the education of our children.” In addition, parent and teacher associations are very active in most of the local schools.

At an earlier American Education Week celebration, President Barack Obama proclaimed, “Education has always been central to ensuring opportunity, and to instilling in all our citizens the defining American values of freedom, equality, and respect for one another. Our nation’s schools can give students the tools, skills, and knowledge to participate fully in our democracy, and to succeed in college, career, and life. This week, let us reaffirm the importance of education and recognize that we all share in the responsibility to educate our students.”



# WILLOW OAK continued from page 1

slough off, exposing the fungal fruiting bodies called stroma.

*Ganoderma*, root rot fungus, is a pathogen that enters openings in root systems. A distinctive, shelf-like fruiting structure forms singly on the wood at or near the soil line. It is brown to reddish brown on top with a cream to white margin. The brown portion appears to have been varnished. The shelf grows perennially for 5 to 10 years and may reach 8 to 12 inches across. The underside of the shelf is light colored with tiny pores in which the spores are formed. Infected trees slow in growth rate and have dying branches with small, yellowed leaves. A butt rot may take several years to kill the tree but makes the tree very susceptible to wind-throw.

*Brian Townsend, Certified Horticulturist, Certified Arborist #MA-5069A Maryland Roadside Tree Care Expert #001306, City of Greenbelt*

**Editor's Note:** Former City Manager James Giese advises that the oak tree had enjoyed being spared the woodsman’s axe for 51 years. At the time the Municipal Building was completed in 1963, both the mayor and building architect wanted that tree and the large neighboring pine tree removed because they were oversized and diminished the appearance of the new building. So they were, but trees are sacred in Greenbelt and a reprieve was granted.

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# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report" or [http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police/weekly\\_report.pdf](http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf). Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

### Attempted Robbery

November 1, 12:40 p.m., 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive. A man outside of his vehicle at the Metro parking lot was approached by another man who demanded his wallet and money. The man about to be robbed fled and contacted police. The man attempting to rob him is described as black, approximately 5'7" tall, 150 pounds, wearing a black mask and sunglasses, grey jeans and a black jacket. He is believed to be the suspect in a subsequent carjacking.

### Carjacking

November 1, 12:45 p.m., 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive. A man was sitting in his vehicle at the Metro parking lot when another man tapped on the window, ordered him to get out of the vehicle and demanded his cell phone. He exited his vehicle and gave the man his cell phone and wallet. The man who took the property then fled in the man's vehicle.

Prior to the report of a carjacking being received by police, an officer observed what later turned out to be the stolen vehicle being driven in an erratic manner in the area of Cherrywood Lane and Ivy Lane. When the officer attempted a traffic stop, the driver refused to stop and fled. He was last seen turning off Kenilworth Avenue onto northbound Route 495.

The vehicle, a 2004 Scion XB, was recovered a short time later by Maryland State police in the area of the Beltway and Route 1 in College Park. The vehicle had been wrecked and abandoned.

The carjacker is described as a black man, 5'7" tall, 150 pounds with a thin build, wearing glasses, a grey hooded sweatshirt and a brown 'puffy' vest.

### Theft

October 31, 11:15 p.m., 6460 Capitol Drive. An unattended jacket and cell phone were taken from T.G.I.Friday's Restaurant.

November 3, 1:10 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. An unattended phone was taken from a charger at the Metro PCS store.

November 3, 9 p.m., 99 Centerway. A cell phone was taken from an unattended book bag outside the Youth Center.

November 4, 8:50 a.m., 6100 block Greenbelt Road. Two men entered the Target store and smashed open a glass display case in an attempt to take a notebook-type computer. When an employee approached them, they fled without taking anything.

November 4, 12:05 p.m., 9100 block Edmonston Road. A vehicle that had a boot attached to one of its tires by parking enforcement staff because of unpaid tickets was possibly towed away with the boot. The vehicle is described as a two-door purple 1995 Nissan 200SX with Md. tags 1BD8188.

November 4, 12:15 p.m., 5500 block Cherrywood Lane. An unattended wallet was taken from a table.

November 4, 5:25 p.m., 141 Centerway. Unattended keys were taken from Maria's Beauty Salon.

### Vandalism

November 2, 6 p.m., 6640 Lake Park Drive. A marker was used to vandalize walls throughout the building.

### Vehicle Crime

A 1999 Dodge Caravan stolen from the 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace was recovered in the 1100 block of Dunbar Oaks Drive in Capitol Heights by Prince George's County police before it had been reported stolen. No arrests were made.

A 2001 Chrysler van reported stolen on October 16 from the 6100 block of Cherrywood Lane was recovered November 5 in the 200 block of Crain Highway, Bowie, by Prince George's County police. No arrests were made. The tags on the vehicle at the time of theft, Md. 9MD6488, were not recovered and are still listed as stolen.

A theft from auto occurred in 16 Court Ridge when a rear vent window was broken and the in-dash stereo removed.

Thefts of license plates occurred in the 6100 block Breeze-wood Court (Md. 9AY4993) and 9100 block Springhill Lane (Md. 8BK2268).

Two tires on a vehicle in the 6000 block Greenbelt Road (Beltway Plaza Mall parking lot) were slashed. The car owner reported that she had been involved in a verbal dispute over a parking space prior to the vandalism. She described the possible vandal as a black woman in her mid-20s, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and driving a tan Honda Accord.

# MakerSpace Workshop Takes on 3D Printers

by Karen Tang

The Greenbelt MakerSpace hosted a 3D printing workshop, Saturday, October 4. Eva Fallon and George Boyce are the co-founders of MakerSpace, located at 125 Centerway.

The site is in Roosevelt Center next to the Old Greenbelt Theatre. About a dozen people attended the introductory lesson.

Boyce was workshop instructor, demonstrating different types of 3D printing software and how the 3D printer works. The session provided attendees with an overview of what they could learn if they joined the weekly classes starting in November, on how to use different types of software for 3D printing.

"It was neat. It was very instructive," Joyce Wineland, 65, said. "Since this was a free event, it seemed like a good way to spend a couple hours and learn something new."

The former dry-cleaning store is now a community activity center with educational programs that focus on science and technology. Called a "hands on, do-it-yourself program," by Fallon, it is "a great resource and fantastic place," said Brett Fishburne. "It is our son's second home."

The Greenbelt MakerSpace holds workshops and classes in microelectronics, computer science, robotics and general science. Non-technical activities include writing, knitting and crafts. Open from 3 to 10 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. Events are not restricted to Greenbelt residents. Membership is free and open to all ages.

Karen Tang is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism writing for the News Review.

## Maryland Legacy Day

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., Prince George's County Chapter will hold its 19th Annual Maryland Legacy Day on Saturday, November 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Prince George's Community College, Largo Student Center Community Room.

Keynote speaker is Dr. Lenneal Henderson from the University of Baltimore. His topic is Celebrating 150 Years of Freedom. Henderson is a distinguished professor in the School of Public and International Affairs.

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**Break Dancers:** Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 pm

**Fortune Tellers:** Nov 29<sup>th</sup> & Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 pm  
**Gift Wrapping:** Dec 12<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, Mall Hours  
**Mariachi Musicians:** Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 pm



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## Greenbelt Elementary Storybook Parade

Greenbelt Elementary School held their annual Storybook Parade on Friday, October 31. To celebrate books and reading, students were asked to select a character from one of their favorite books and to dress up as that character. They then paraded around the outside of the school in their costumes, carrying the book they had chosen.

Many teachers got into the spirit of the occasion, dressing up as characters such as Amelia Bedelia, Thing One and Thing Two from Dr. Seuss, Harry Potter and Ms. Clavel from Madeleine.

Photographs were taken by Eric Zhang..



Sophia Talinao (grade 2), Elsa with Mary Poppins Book



Kai Waters, A Pirate's Night Before Christmas



Emma Cantwell (grade 2), Mommy's Best Kisses



Aeryn Wesley-Hunt (grade 2), Sign of the Beaver

## Astronomical Society Meets Nov. 20

The November meeting of the Astronomical Society will feature a presentation by Greenbelt resident, Therese Kucera, a solar physicist working on the STEREO project. She studies the dynamic processes at work in the Sun's atmosphere. She will discuss the STEREO mission and the science coming from it and other missions observing the Sun and Solar Wind, including solar activity. Dr. Kucera received her undergraduate

degree from Carlton College and her Ph.D. from the Department of Astrophysical, Planetary, and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Colorado.

The meeting will be held Thursday, November 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Planetarium of the Howard B. Owens Science Center, 9601 Greenbelt Rd., Lanham, (adjacent to DuVal High School). All are welcome. There is no charge.



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If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

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More information on Partnership for Animal Welfare will appear in a future issue.

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# Moonlit Movies Continue Finding Ready Viewers

by Dylan Reffe

Nearly 100 people packed the Youth Center’s gymnasium on Saturday evening for a Halloween-themed edition of the city’s Moonlit Movies series. The city has been sponsoring Saturday evening movies all summer while the Old Greenbelt Theatre in Roosevelt Center has been undergoing renovations.

The movie theater has been closed while undergoing a \$1.2 million renovation project. Updates include new digital projectors, an updated concessions area and new mechanical systems. The theater, which has been owned by the city since 2002, was opened in 1938.

Hotel Transylvania is the 11th in a series of movies put on by the city and other sponsors, including the Greenbelt Co-op. The Co-op provided a few choice snacks for the event. “The Co-op has provided snacks in the past but this is the first time with popcorn and hot chocolate!” said Caitlyn McGrath, the film programmer.

Even with the many perks, the movie was not as well attended as some of the summer events. “We usually averaged between 200 and 400 people,” McGrath said. “This is kind of a small crowd.”

The summer movies were shown outdoors on the grassy area in front of the Aquatic and Fitness Center. But as the temperature continues to drop, future movies will be shown inside the Youth Center gym.

### Set up the Same

Although the movie was shown indoors, the setup remained the same. The 20-foot inflatable screen was moved inside and most of the audience brought chairs and blankets. One family even brought a picnic.

Audience members ranged in age from 5 to 75 and everyone seemed to enjoy both the movie and the atmosphere. “The city

does such a great job selecting movies that are perfect for the whole family,” said Lil’ Dan Celdran, who came to the movie in her strawberry-patterned pajamas.

Celdran, a fitness instructor for the city’s recreation department, has been to many of the city’s movie events, bringing with her Roman Hurwitz Jacks, 8, and her son, Danzson, 5. “My favorite movie is Hotel Transylvania,” said Roman, a third grader at Greenbelt Elementary. “I like the snacks,” said Danzson, a kindergartener at Greenbelt Elementary.

Celdran was also one of the lucky winners of the event-sponsored raffle, taking home the grand prize of a \$50 gift card to the Co-op. “I never win anything,” Celdran beamed.

Alyssa, a 7-year-old first grader, came all the way from Laurel to see her first Moonlit Movie. Alyssa was accompanied by her friends, Courtney, 6, and Elizabeth, 9. Both attend Magnolia Elementary School. “We love the movies,” Elizabeth said. “My favorite was the Muppet Movie,” Courtney happily squealed.

The next Moonlit Movie extravaganza is planned for December 13. The Christmas-themed event will be highlighted by the movie Elf, starring Will Ferrell.

Dylan Reffe is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism writing for the News Review.

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# Beeker Gives Greenbelt Elementary a Special Touch

by Brittany Britto

Whether it be exploring pumpkin science, learning about the different sizes of dinosaurs or teaching students about people that service the community, Greenbelt Elementary School pre-kindergarten teacher Kristin Beeker has shown that she possesses the keys to educational success at such a young age, earning her the recognition during Teacher Appreciation Week.

“You can teach whatever you want but if you don’t have enthusiasm, [the students] don’t listen to you,” Beeker said, emphasizing the importance of revving up their excitement. “Showing your enthusiasm and your love for learning really is what ties them into it.”

Beeker, a recent graduate from Salisbury University, began her first year as a pre-kindergarten teacher at Greenbelt Elementary and has already shown promising results and a graceful transition according to Greenbelt Elementary Principal Monica Gaines.

“She has really impressed me with her content knowledge and her rapport with the 4-year-olds,” Gaines said of Beeker, who is the school’s only pre-k teacher. “It takes a very special personality to work with the younger students, but she has a very high expectation of them and the students are rising to her expectations.”

The 22-year-old’s success may come from the fact that she has wanted to be a teacher most of her life, with her pre-k teacher’s approach to education being the pushing factor, Beeker said.

“She was very hands on with the work that she did with us and the environment of her classroom was always so welcoming,” Beeker said of her pre-k teacher. “It was always like a second home.”

Beeker, seeing pre-k as a critical stage in every student’s career, wanted to recreate that same hands-on environment and feel for students during her teaching career.

“The fact that it’s their first year even before kindergarten means that the pre-k teacher is the first one they have the school image with,” Beeker said. “You’re either going to make or break their first few years of school. I just wanted to be the person to make them want to come back to school every year.”

During her time at Salisbury University, Beeker pursued a



Kristin Beeker

bachelor of science in elementary education and did an internship with Wicomico Early Learning Center in Salisbury, a pivotal point for her teaching career, Beeker said.

“It really opened my eyes and gave me the resources I needed to be successful in this position this year,” Beeker said of the program, which allowed her to practice the hands-on approach she once loved as a student.

Beeker has taken her valuable experience from the program and has applied it to the classroom this year.

“We’re always using manipulatives and doing different experiments in class. We just got a new curriculum,” Beeker said. “It’s very rigorous and gets the children thinking on the next level. We do the alphabet, the standard numbers but we dig a lot deeper. We go into the rhyming and the alliterations. We go into the science skills of being able to ask questions and dig further into it. It’s really important for pre-k students to get established.”

The results of her hard work have proven to be rewarding, Beeker said.

“I am proud of my students every single day. I see growth in them every single day,” said Beeker, who looks forward to coming to school everyday despite her daily commute from Towson. “They love to tell you about everything they do. They’re always so engaged. I can’t ask for anything more from them. They’re sitting here and they’re doing things that I don’t even remember doing when I was four years old.”

Beeker is not only pleased with the students, but with the Greenbelt community, which she described as welcoming and connected.

“Coming in, I was really nervous with it being my first year [teaching] but everyone welcomes you with open arms,” said Beeker, whose fondest memory was the school’s day parade. “The parade just gave me a sense of what Greenbelt Elementary really is. It’s not just this school. The parents are connected. The students are connected. The principal and teachers were there. It was like this huge family at the parade and it was only the first week of school.”

## Activities at the Co-op

There is a wine tasting on Friday, November 14, 4 to 7 p.m. Enjoy a sample of Co-op’s selections and save five percent on tasting wines. This month’s Seasonal and Savory Food Demo and Wine Tasting is on November 19, 5 to 7 p.m. Co-op staff will serve up Spiced Butternut Squash Soup and Honey Oatmeal Bread, an easy yet tasty fall meal. November 19 is Patron Appreciation Day where shoppers save five percent on purchases all day.

Visit [www.greenbelt.coop](http://www.greenbelt.coop) for details about upcoming events.

## Mishkan Torah Hosts “Switch” on Nov. 16

On Sunday, November 16 at 10:30 a.m., the Adult Education Committee of Mishkan Torah Synagogue will be showing the 2013 documentary “Switch: Discover the Future of Energy.”

In the film Dr. Scott Tinker, a geology professor at the University of Texas, embarks on a global adventure, exploring leading sites for all energy types, from coal to solar and from oil to biofuel. The popular film has been seen by over 3 million viewers worldwide.

## GAIL Progam, Preal Feeding America

In observance of the fifth Ameriprise Financial National Day of Service with Feeding America and other hunger-relief organizations nationwide, Preal Haley and Associates and clients will join thousands of Ameriprise advisors, clients and employees conducting food drives and volunteering at hunger-relief organizations repackaging bulk food items, stocking warehouses, and assembling or serving meals.

On Friday, November 14 TeamPreal will contribute and package Thanksgiving themed canned goods and non-perishable items to provide traditional Thanksgiving meals to those in need. Baskets will be stuffed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the program will run from 1 to 4 p.m. Activities will be held at the Greenbelt Community Center.

Teaming up with the Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program (GAIL) is essential for the success of the food distribution program. GAIL is committed to providing the names of persons in need in the City of Greenbelt, and will donate frozen turkeys and produce in support of the drive.

GAIL has identified 25 families in Greenbelt, which comprise senior citizens, homeless persons in transition to becoming first-time homeowners and underprivileged students of Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

### Ameriprise

Since Ameriprise Financial began its partnership with Feeding America in 2009, the company, advisors and employees have provided more than 35 million meals and volunteered more than one hundred thousand hours to support hunger-relief organizations nationwide.

GAIL was established in 2001 and is available to senior citizens residing in the City of Greenbelt, Maryland and/or caregivers of a Greenbelt senior.

For additional information about the Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program, contact Community Resource Advocate Christal Batey via email at [cbatey@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:cbatey@greenbeltmd.gov) or by phone at (301) 345-6660, ext. 2012.

## Star Party to Look At Star Clusters

The public is invited to a star party Saturday evening, November 15, hosted by the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt at the City of Greenbelt Observatory, located at Northway Fields. Usually, in addition to the telescope in the observatory, some members set up personal telescopes and binoculars for the enjoyment of all.

Observing will begin around 6 p.m. and continue for about two hours. Through the observatory telescope we will look at star clusters, galaxies, planetary nebulae and planets (Mars, Uranus and Neptune will be up). The emphasis this time will be on globular star clusters, with Society members describing key features in the field of view.

There is no fee for the event. Attendees are asked to park in the ballfield lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope.

The star party will be cancelled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.

## POMMEREHN cont. from page 1

“She definitely stood out compared to any of the people we had interviewed thus far,” Gaines said. “And I have been so impressed with her positive attitude towards teaching and learning. I’ve never met anyone who can turn any situation into a positive that students can learn from.”

The second grade teacher, born and raised just 25 minutes away in Bowie, was excited to return to Prince George’s County to help the community through teaching, said Pommerehn.

“I’ve always wanted to work with children, and then my junior year of high school, they had a child growth and development class, as well as a preschool,” Pommerehn said. “I absolutely loved working there, and I think that’s when it set in for me that [teaching] was what I wanted to do.”

Pommerehn pursued her bachelor of science in elementary education with a minor in psychology at Florida Southern while also working the full four years at a pre-school and doing a full-time internship in a first-grade classroom before coming to teach at Greenbelt Elementary.

Though adjusting to a new curriculum and lesson plans in a short amount of time was a challenge, Pommerehn feels on top of her work thanks to the support of her team and the community, she said.

“Just the acceptance I have felt since I have been here has been a world of help,” Pommerehn said. “It’s very open working with your colleagues here. The parents are very involved so you know they care about their students getting the best education possible, and the kids are so intuitive.”

Though the 22-year-old is new to teaching, Pommerehn is able to bring innovative ideas to Greenbelt Elementary from her experience, Gaines said. These new ideas include setting math

tables to songs and giving students educational, brain breaks, Pommerehn said.

“They love videos. TeacherTube and YouTube are wonderful sources, and you can have an educational video on almost anything these days,” said Pommerehn, who also sees importance in giving her students independence in their learning.

“I try to be as hands-on as possible, but I know the students will learn best by doing it themselves,” Pommerehn said. “They’re going to learn best if I give them the tools to find the answer on their own. So that’s what I try to do in my classroom. Use a very hands-on approach as well as a very Socratic type approach where I ask an engaging question and see where it takes them.”

Pommerehn leads the way in science, her favorite subject, but equally enjoys seeing students work through stories in reading.

“I really like getting to the actual meat of the story. We just finished fables, which was awesome because the textbooks hold different versions of so many stories,” Pommerehn said. “We recently read The Boy Who Cried Wolf, and then we read Wolf Wolf, which is from the wolf’s perspective. It’s amazing to watch the light bulb moments and hear what they think is happening.”

*Brittany Britto is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism writing for the News Review.*

## Toastmasters Meet

The next meeting of the Greenbelt Toastmasters Club will be on Wednesday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m., in the Social Hall of Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside and Crescent Roads.

The group offers professionals, students, stay-at-home parents and retirees a supportive environment to improve skills in communication and leadership.



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